Hadst thou, like us[4], from our first
swath [5]5 proceeded

have recourse to the Greek language. The dictionaries of his time furnished him with it. See Cawdrey's Dictionary of Hard English Words, octavo., 1604: "Cynical, *doggish,* freward." Again, in Bullokar's English Expositor, 1616: *(f* Cynical* *doggish,* or currish. There was in Greece an old sect of philosophers so called, because they did ever sharply *bar/ce* at men's vices," &c. After all, however, I believe Shakspeare only meant, thou wert born in a low state, and used from thy infancy to hardships, MALONE.

4 Hadst thou, like us.] There is in this speech a sullen haughtiness and malignant dignity, suitable at once to the lord and the man-hater. The impatience with which he bears to have his luxury reproached by one that never had luxury within his reach, is natural and graceful.

There is in a letter, written by the Earl of Essex, just before Lis execution, to another nobleman, a passage somewhat resembling this, with which, I believe, every reader will be pleased, though it is so serious and solemn that it can scarcely be inserted without irreverence :

" God grant your lordship may quickly feel the comfort I now enjoy in my unfeigned conversion, but that you may never feel the torments I have suffered for my long delaying it. I had none but deceivers to call upon me, to whom I said, if my ambition could have entered into their narrow breasts, they would not have been so humble; or if my delights had been once tasted by them, they would not have been so precise. But your lordship hath one to call upon you, that knoweth what it is you now enjoy; and what the greatest fruit and end is of all contentment that this world can afford. Think, therefore, dear earl, that I have staked and buoyed all the ways of pleasure unto you, and left them as sea-marks for you to keep the channel of religious virtue. For shut your eyes never so long., they must be open at the last, and then you must say with me, *there is no peace to the ungodly''* JOHNSON.

A similar thought occurs in a MS. metrical translation of an ancient French romance., preserved in the Library of King's College, Cambridge. [See note on Antony and Cleopatra, Act IV. Sc. X.]:

> ** But heretofore of hardnesse hadest thou never; ** But were brought forth in blisse, as swich a burde ought, " Wyth alle maner gode metes, and to misse them now " It were abotles bale," &c. p, 26, b. STEEVENS.

5 —first SWATH,] From infancy. *Swath* is the dress of a new-born child, JOHNSON.